

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5871

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: OCTOBER 21 NPG STAFF GROUP MGGETING

REF: A. USNATO 5814

B. USNATO 5620

SUMMARY. AT OCTOBER 21 NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) MEETING, SG CHAIRMAN EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR CONCURRING INDRAFT PRESS RELEASE FOR ROME NPG MEETING. SG DISCUSSED CONSULTATIONS ON US NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES. UK AND CANADIAN REPS EMPHASIZED RECOGNITION OF US PRE-ROGATIVES ON THIS SUBJECT AND FACT THAT INITIATIVES FOR CONSULTATIONS SHOULD PROPERLY COME FROM US. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OCTOBER 21 NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) MEETING, SG CHAIRMAN (SHEARER) EXTENDED FOR ONE WEEK THE DEADLINE FOR CAPITALS TO CONCUR IN THE PRESS RELEASE FOR THE NOVEMBER 7-8 ROME NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING (REF A). HE SAID THAT THE IS WILL SLIP THE NEW DEADLINE OF OCTOBER 25 FURTHER IF NECESSARY FOR REPS TO RECEIVE GUIDANCE FROM CAPITALS.
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2. THE SG DISCUSSED POSSIBLE FUTURE US CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO ON THE US NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES. SG CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH US STAFF OFFICERS ON OCTOBER 17 (REPORTED SEPTTEL) WERE USEFUL AND THAT OTHER

SG MEMBERS SHARED THIS VIEW. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED SUCH INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO THE NPG, SUCH AS THE NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES, WOULD CONTINUE IN FUTURE.

3. UK REP (BEAUMONT) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT SINCE THE US IS DEVELOPING THE NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES AS A RESPONSE TO AN INTERNAL REQUEST BY THE US CONGRESS, IT IS PROPER FOR THE US, ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE, TO DETERMINE WHAT STEPS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO SUGGEST TO ITS ALLIES FOR CONSULTATIONS, AND THAT IT IS UP TO THE US TO DECIDE WHAT IT WILL REPORT TO CONGRESS. UK REP WELCOMED US WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT ON NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES SINCE THEY OBVIOUSLY IMPACT ON AREAS OF CONCERN TO ALL NATO ALLIES. HE SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES, CONSIDERING THE INTERNAL NATURE OF THE STUDIES, HAVE SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT SENDING NATO PEOPLE TO WASHINGTON, AS SUGGESTED AT THE OCTOBER 10 NPG PERM REPS MEETING (SEE REF B, PARA 8), BECAUSE THIS MAY BE A COMPLICATING, RATHER THAN HELPFUL STEP. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE UK LOOKS FORWARD TO LEARNING HOW THE US WOULD RESPOND TO THE VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE FOR CONSULTATIONS.

4. CANADIAN REP (BECKETT), SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HAVE INSTRUCTIONS, HE THOUGHT THAT OTTAWA WOULD SHARE THE VIEWS THAT THE UK REP EXPRESSED. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES ARE AN INTERNAL MATTER, THE NPG SHOULD RECOGNIZE US PREROGATIVES AND WAIT FOR THE US TO MAKE SUCH INITIATIVES AS IT DEEMS PROPER FOR CONSULTATION WITH ITS ALLIES. HE ADDED THAT CANADA IS FULLY AWARE THAT THE US HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN THE PAST, AND THAT HE FELT SURE THAT THE US WOULD NOT CHANGE IN THIS CASE.

5. US REP (WOODWORTH) SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE COMMENTS OF SG REPS AND HE WOULD FORWARD ALL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS TO WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT YET DISCUSS CONSULTATION PROCEDURES IN ANY DETAIL. HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON HAS DONE VARIOUS BACKGROUND STUDIES, PREPARATION OF THE REPORT FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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CONGRESS IS ONLY IN EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT THE SAME APPLIED TO DEVELOPMENT OF US PLANS FOR CONSULTATIONS. HE ASSURED SG REPS THAT THE US INTENDS TO CONSULT FULLY AS IT HAS DONE ON OTHER IMPORTANT NUCLEAR ISSUES OF INTEREST TO NATO. HE SAID THAT WE EXPECT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO DISCUSS THE NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES AT THE ROME NPG MEETING AND THAT HE FELT SURE THE SECRETARY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MINISTERS. US REP SAID HE AGREED WITH COMMENTS BY UK AND CANADIAN REPS ON US PREROGATIVES RELATING TO THE NUNN AMENDMENT STUDIES, AND SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT ALLIES WOULD BE ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH INITIATIVES THAT THE US WILL TAKE ON CONSULTATIONS.

6. SG CHAIRMAN HAS NOT SCHEDULED A MEETING FOR OCTOBER 28

AND DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY FURTHER MEETINGS UNTIL AFTER
ROME MINISTERIAL MEETING.
MCAULIFFE

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